

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6551
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5735

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: THE VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

REF: LISBON 5733

SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HENRIQUE GRANADEIRO TOLD
ME AUGUST 2 THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NO CLEAR PREFERENCE
BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT BASED ON AN INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT AND A
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GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE BASED ON PARLIAMENTARY
SUPPORT. HE ASSURED ME THE PRESIDENT WILL ADHERE STRICTLY TO
THE CONSTITUTION AND WILL BASE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE CONSENT
OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT IS
SINCERE IN HIS DEMOCRATIC CONVICTIONS. WE ARE CAREFULLY
AVOIDING EXPRESSING ANY PREFERENCES AS BETWEEN THE TWO PROFERRED
SOLUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ALTERNATIVES - AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES:

HENRIQUE GRANADEIRO, CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S CIVIL HOUSEHOLD, CALLED ON ME AUGUST 2 TO REVIEW PRESIDENT EANE'S SPEECH AND EXPECTATIONS. GRANADEIRO SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD NO CLEAR PREFERENCE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT BASED ON AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES AND A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE WITH PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT. GRANADEIRO SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD ADHERE FAIRLY CLOSELY TO HIS WEEKEND DEADLINE, PERHAPS ALLOWING THE PARTIES UNTIL TUESDAY TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WHICH ENABLES DESIGNATION OF A PRIME MINISTER. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD HAVE TEN DAYS TO PUT TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT AND A PROGRAM, BUT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE ADDITIONAL 10-DAY PERIODS IF PROGRESS TOWARD A GOVERNMENT TOOK LONGER.

2. GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE: GRANADEIRO

STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SECOND ALTERNATIVE - A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE - WOULD BE BASED ON PRIOR AGREEMENT BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES. IF THE PARTIES DO NOT CONSENT, THE PRESIDENT WOULD MOVE TO ELECTIONS. THE PRESIDENT WOULD NAME THE PRIME MINISTER AND SELECT THE MINISTERS BUT WITH AT LEAST THE NIHIL OBSTAT OF THE PARTIES. IN GRANADEIRO'S PERSONAL VIEW, THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST OTHER THAN SOARES, THERE SHOULD BE ABOUT SIX OTHER SOCIALIST MINISTERS, AND EIGHT OTHER MINISTERS FROM THE PSD, THE CDS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND INDEPENDENTS. GRANADEIRO SAID THE PRESIDENT PREFERS FIRST A SOCIALIST PRIME MINISTER, SECOND AN INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN, AND ONLY IF THE ABOVE ARE NOT POSSIBLE, A MILITARY PRIME MINISTER (E.G. MINDEF FIRMINO MIGUEL).

3. COMMENT: GRANADEIRO SOUGHT TO ASSURE ME, AND WAS UNDERTAKING A SIMILAR MISSION WITH OTHER "FRIENDLY" EMBASSIES, THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE CONSTITUTION AND WILL ONLY ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THE CONSENT OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT IS SINCERE IN HIS DEMOCRATIC CONVICTIONS AND WOULD NOT IMPOSE A SOLUTION OPPOSED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE CAREFULLY AVOIDING EXPRESSING ANY PREFERENCES AS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS SOLUTIONS. I AM ONLY URGING THAT A VIABLE DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION BE FOUND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC PROBLEM. BLOOMFIELD

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